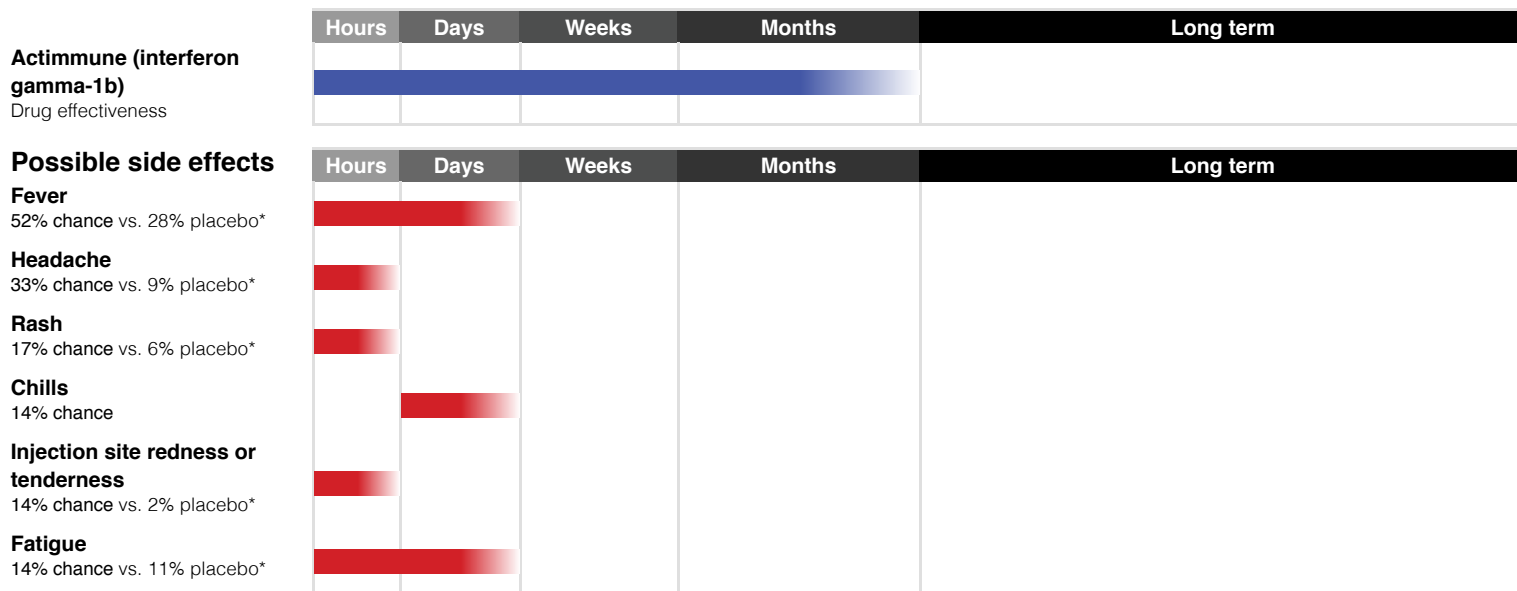


# Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) basics

**Helps fight some infections and slows osteoporosis.** Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) works well to fight infections like chronic granulomatous disease and slows the progression of osteoporosis, but it is expensive.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Avoid driving, operating machinery, or doing any other activities that require you to be alert until you know how Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) affects you.
- If you're giving Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) to yourself, be sure to follow your doctor's or nurse's advice on how to administer the drug and dispose of its container, needle, and syringe.
- Talk to your doctor before you drink alcohol if you're on Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b).
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before getting any vaccines. Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) can raise your risk of infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- Take Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) at bedtime and with acetaminophen (APAP) to help relieve flu-like symptoms. Your pharmacist can recommend how much acetaminophen is safe to take.
- Change the site where you give yourself the shot each time to prevent skin irritation.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Heart problems

Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) at high doses can cause flu-like symptoms that can worsen existing heart problems. Depending on your dose, your doctor may recommend that you take Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) at bedtime or with acetaminophen (APAP) to help prevent flu-like symptoms. Speak to your doctor right away if you experience shortness of breath, fatigue and weakness, swelling in your limbs or abdomen, irregular heartbeats, sudden weight gain, lack of appetite, or persistent coughing. These could be signs of worsening heart function.

### Altered mental status

Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) at high doses can affect your mental status, balance, and cause dizziness. These effects usually go away a few days after changing your dose or stopping Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b). Let your doctor know if you have a history of seizures or other conditions that affect the brain.

### Low blood counts

Actimmune (interferon gamma-1b) can lower your blood counts, making you more likely to get an infection. You'll have to get your blood tested regularly. The symptoms of low blood cell count can be different for each person, so speak with your doctor about which signs and symptoms you should look out for.

